

**CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU
COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES**

SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST CITATION

BRIDGEND

WAUN-FAWR, CEFN CRIBWR

Date of Notification: 2000

National Grid Reference: SS 856817

O.S. Maps: 1:50,000 Sheet number: 170
1:10,000 Sheet number: SS 88 SE

Site Area: 9.2 ha

Description:

Waun-fawr, Cefn Cribwr is of special interest for its marshy grassland, and for the association of this vegetation type with others including species-rich neutral grassland and scrub.

The site lies to the south of the village of Cefn Cribwr and 4 km west of Bridgend, at an altitude of 60 to 80 m. It comprises a group of gently sloping pastures with a southerly aspect which are sheltered by tall hedges and adjacent woodland. The land lies over Lower Lias limestones and mudstones of the Jurassic System and has poorly drained, clayey soils of the Dyffryn Series.

Much of the site supports grassland which is typified by frequent purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, together with carnation sedge *Carex panicea*, glaucous sedge *Carex flacca*, and the broad-leaved herbs tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and devil-bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*. Quaking grass *Briza media* and the base-loving sedges tawny sedge *Carex hostiana* and flea sedge *Carex pulicaris*, are also common, as is saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria*. Marsh valerian *Valeriana dioica* and creeping willow *Salix repens* are present locally.

Variation in the species-composition of the marshy grassland often reflects soil moisture conditions. In drier areas, plants more typical of neutral grassland, such as crested dog's tail *Cynosurus cristatus*, common bent *Agrostis capillaris*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* and common bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* become occasional. On two small, free-draining knolls in the north-west of the site this floristic element becomes more pronounced and marshy grassland gives way to slightly damp neutral grassland characterised by common bent, crested dog's tail and red fescue *Festuca rubra*, together with common knapweed and common bird's-foot trefoil.

Also present on the site are small areas of marshy grassland dominated by rushes such as hard rush *Juncus inflexus* and sharp-flowered rush, *Juncus acutiflorus*. A few patches of scrub occur in the northern fields. These habitats add to the ecological and structural diversity of the site.

Of note are small populations of some uncommon species including the nationally scarce, soft-leaved sedge *Carex montana*, and also pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus*, both of which are associated with base-enriched marshy grassland in the north-eastern fields. Petty whin *Genista*

anglica occurs in related vegetation in the south of the site.

Remarks:

The site supports vegetation assignable to the *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *Molinion caeruleae*. These are habitat types listed on Annex I of the European Community=s Habitats and Species Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna).

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